

Concerning the Draft

From Mass. Office, 6th Dist. Ill.,  
John, Dec. 1864.

No. 100,000—Dear Sir:—During the day I have received communications from various sources concerning the probabilities of another draft, and the mode of towns and sub-districts preparing for it. I give you a general answer, that you may, if you think proper, give it publicly through your columns.

I have no official knowledge that a future draft will be ordered, therefore my opinion would be of no more value than any other man's as to whether there will or will not be one. Though I am ordered by the Department to have my enrollment list thoroughly examined, in case of necessity I may be "prized" to secure an order properly and without delay. This you can estimate, perhaps, to mean that the intentions of the Department are to order another draft, yet I incline to the opinion, that it simply means that in view of the immense amount of labor necessary to get ready for a draft, that the list should be kept in a condition to meet such demand in case a thorough trial should convince the government that more men are needed to put the finishing stroke to the rebellion.

In view, however, of the fact that the rebellion still exists, and that it may necessitate a call for more men to accomplish its overthrow, I would advise each man, either by a conscription or otherwise, to see that his list is purged of all names which are not liable to military duty, and that all those are placed upon it who by removal of age, become liable to military duty.

Now we wish to distinctly understand that we are not on the list of exonerated men, but that we are on the list of the Democratic party. The Democratic party is founded on principles that cannot become obsolete. In this country it came into being on the first formation of parties under our government. It has stood its ground from that day to this, while its opponents have undergone numerous changes of policy and name. It has outlived the Federal party, the National Republican party, the anti-slavery party, and the present opposition is trying to shroud the cognomen of Black Republicanism, and appear in a new body as the so-called Union party. Under all these various changes of the opposition, the Democratic party never had occasion to change its name or principles. Repeatedly has the Democratic party been defeated in elections, but each time it arose again with renewed strength and vigor, and trampled over all opposition. And so it will in the future.

At various periods in the history of the Democratic party, superficial thinkers have extended that there was no longer a necessity for maintaining the organization of the Democratic party. This was the case especially when the alien and edition laws, the United States bank question, the tariff question, the internal improvement question, became obsolete.

Here we would remind our readers that all these questions, and others, that have separated the Democratic party from its opponents ever since the formation of the government, have been but the tests upon which the contest has been maintained between popular rights on the one side, and thirst of power on the other.

The one grand issue that has always divided the two parties, is that of State rights. Ever since the foundation of the government this opposition party, under its various names, has aimed to concentrate in its hands more power than the constitution, with a liberal and true constitution, confers. And it has been the mission of the Democratic party to resist and check this tendency. The alien and edition law, the national bank, a general system of internal improvements, a high tariff, and other questions of difference between the parties, have been opposed by the Democracy on the ground that they tended to accumulate and consolidate power into the hands of the federal government. And thus this contest between centralized power on the one side and local popular liberty on the other has existed ever since the adoption of our national constitution.

And now that the dominant party and Administration are laboring to completely centralize power, and to take it from the States and people, it behooves Democrats to stand firm by their principles. The bold and startling assumption is made that the States are nothing and the General Government everything, thus virtually declaring in favor of a centralized despotism. Against this dangerous theory the Democracy must continue to present an unbroken front.

To suppose that the Democratic party has been used up in the latest contest, because a shallow brain. Indeed the latest canvass is most encouraging evidence of its strength and vitality. It grappled with an administration wielding vast powers, expending treasures untold, controlling the service of stipendiaries so formidable and against all odds fought its fight through to the end, and won a clear majority of the people, excepting those only who have, as office-holders or dependents, a direct pecuniary interest in the continuance of power where it is now.

The fact was never more apparent than it is at the present moment that the Democratic party has an existence. Though the waves of constitutional guarantees have swept over it, it will come out of the storm unscathed. Burdensome taxation, suffering, wretchedness and war will come to the dwellings of the common people, and they will arise in their might and shake off the Black Republican leprosy in due time. This is as certain as that night follows day. Mark what we say.

A convention has been in session in Philadelphia for several days, whose object is the incorporation into the Constitution of the United States of an amendment declaring that the Christian nation, and recognition therein of the Savior. On Thursday the Convention passed resolutions declaring that "a national recognition of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Scriptures, is clearly a Scriptural duty which is national peril to disregard; regretting that the Constitution is devoid of any distinctive Christian feature; and that the time encourage the attempt to secure such amendment." If all mankind would acknowledge the truths of Christianity, it would be a blessed thing, indeed; but as they do not, it would be simply an infringement of the rights of conscience, and of the spirit of our institutions, to establish any religious doctrine as the national faith of the country. But fanatics know no law or sense, and read history to their own purpose.

It is a great mistake to think that the majority are always in the right. They were not in the matter of the flood, and they've been wrong several times since.

A lady who visited the "contraband camp" at Norfolk recently was astonished to find the names of every baby in the camp to be uniformly "Abraham."

JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILLINOIS.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

Tuesday, December 20, 1864.

No PAPER NEXT WEEK.—According to the usual custom, no paper will be published from this office next week. A "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year" to all our patrons and friends.

Is the Democratic Party Dead?—This is a question which the interests of every friend of free representative government is involved. In it is centered all our hopes for the future; and our security for the present.

We are aware that there are some weak-minded persons who contend that the Democratic party has outgrown the necessity for its existence; that its mission has been filled and there is no necessity for keeping up its organization.

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Taxation in 1865.

It should be recollected that the selling of real estate is a subject of taxation, and that the State, county, city, school and other local taxes, to pay a government tax on their real and personal property. This government tax was postponed until after the Presidential election, in order that Abraham might have a longer lease of power. Now that election is over, the people must prepare their shoulders for the burden.

It is estimated that the direct government tax will be raised during the present session of Congress to sixty millions of dollars. It will be divided among the States in proportion to their population as shown by the census of 1860.

The proportion to be paid by Illinois of this tax will be over three and a half millions of dollars; and the share of Joliet will be a little less than one hundred thousand dollars.

The farmers who voted for Lincoln and elected him, will soon have an opportunity of handing over their accumulated greenbacks to sustain his prodigal power.

Hereafter they have, in a measure, escaped their proportion of the "taxation and oppression" burden, but they will be neglected by the British during our revolutionary war, in 1777, but it is equally true that it was denounced by the whole civilized world, and most handsomely and effectually rebuked by the great patriot, statesman and warrior—George Washington.

Gen. Wilkinson, in his history of the revolution, gives the following order issued by Gen. Howe, the commander of the British forces:

"All salt meats and provisions which are necessary for the subsistence of an ordinary family, shall be considered as a magazine of the enemy, and seized for the king, and given to the troops as a saving of the public stores."

This order of the British commander was universally regarded throughout the colonies, and more especially by those who fought or sympathized for the cause of freedom and independence, as not only unauthorized by the rules of civilized warfare, but as wretchedly inhuman and savagely barbarous.

In this great emergency, what was the conduct of Washington? Did he retaliate? Did he order his troops to visit similar oppression upon those who sympathized or acted co-operated with the king? Not at all. He was a Christian statesman and warrior, and his conduct throughout the perilous struggle of the seven years which were devoted to achieving the independence of these States, stands to this day unimpaired and unimpeachable.

The same history gives an order issued by Gen. Washington, dated Jan. 22d, 1777, soon after Gen. Howe's order was made public, in which he said:

"The General prohibits both the militia and the continental troops, in the most positive terms, the infamous practice of plundering the inhabitants under the specious pretext of their being Tories. Let the persons of such are known to be enemies of their country be seized and confined, and their property disposed of as the law of the State directs. If it is our business to give protection and support to the distressed inhabitants, we must not multiply and increase their calamities. After the publication of this order, any officer, either military or civil, who shall be guilty of harboring under the pretense of their being Tories, may be expected to be punished in the severest manner, and be obliged to account for everything to God."

It is not necessary to add anything by way of comment upon these two orders. They speak for themselves. An enlightened, christianized public judgment will easily be able to decide which of these is most in accordance with the rules of civilized warfare.

Surely there is a vast difference in our mode of conducting war in 1777 and 1864.

NEW CLOTHING STORE.—S. C. Stearns and H. E. Bush, in the store formerly occupied by Charles Clement, one door east of Casey's store, are opening a new stock of ready-made clothing and gentlemen's furnishings generally, which they propose to sell as low as can be sold in this section.

The excavations of Pompeii have just led to the discovery of a temple of Juno, on the flags of which were scattered about more than 200 skeletons of women and children who during the eruption of Vesuvius, hastened to the temple to implore the protection of the goddess.

A young girl from Illinois went to St. Louis a few days ago and sold herself for an army substitute. When taken before the examining surgeon, he ordered her to strip, but this not exactly agreeing with her sense of propriety, she ran out of the room and concluded to give up soldiering until they would take her word for being an able bodied man.

At the late Presidential election in one of the wards in Cincinnati one ballot was found a straight Republican ticket, with "God forgive me for this sin" written on the back of it. There will be hundreds of Republicans offering this prayer soon.

The Cincinnati Gazette (Rep.) says: Through large portions of the country, especially in the West, men are being recruited for the army, and the political doctors thought it necessary.

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Union Fire Co. No. 2.—At an election of officers, on the evening of 5th inst., the members of Union Engine Fire Co. elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Foreman—Joseph Brown.

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Civilized Warfare—1777 & 1864.

The Quency Herald in an able article draws a contrast between the mode of conducting war in revolutionary times and in these days of Abolition rule.

In reference to the burning of the houses and vast destruction of the property of defenseless private citizens of the South by our invading armies, the Herald truthfully remarks that it is scarcely necessary to pursue any such mode of warfare to conquer the rebels. It cannot be put down in order to overpower and put down the rebellion, it is necessary to destroy with out discrimination, the property of all who live in the South. We shall never believe that in order to enable our armies to conquer the armies of the rebels, and march in triumph through every part of their territory, it is first necessary to turn the women and children out of their homes and destroy their little earthly possessions, including the provisions upon which they live from day to day.

This mode of destructive warfare is unheard of in the early history of this country, or in the history of civilized warfare in any country. It is true, we believe, that something similar was attempted to be enacted by the British during our revolutionary war, in 1777, but it is equally true that it was denounced by the whole civilized world, and most handsomely and effectually rebuked by the great patriot, statesman and warrior—George Washington.

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The News.

The engagement between Thomas and Hod, in the vicinity of Nashville, was renewed on Friday and resulted in a major federal victory. The rebels were driven from their position, and they had taken up, and their army broken into two camps. Unofficial dispatches report that the federal army has already secured 8,000 prisoners and 30 pieces of artillery. Thomas has lost about 3,000. These figures, however, are not to be taken too literally, as the preliminary estimate of the fighting both sides, and the capture of Hod was to be continued Saturday.

On the 14th inst. Gen. Foster had an interview with Gen. Sherman at Fort McAllister, which work was taken up by the 13th. Savannah was invested Friday, and about to be sent in, a refusal to comply with which would lead to an opening of the federal batteries. The capture of Savannah, and the force with which the rebellion was anticipated with confidence.

The rebels have established a number of batteries on the Cumberland river. One of these, a few miles below Clarksville, is said to number thirty guns, and was recently attacked by three gunboats. The assailants were driven off; one of the vessels being seriously damaged. The rebel gunboat is reported as disabled and a portion of the rebel Gen. Lyon's command is marching upon Smithland, at the mouth of the Cumberland; and another body is moving towards Caseyville, on the Ohio, where it is supposed, an attempt will be made to effect a blockade of that stream.

Gen. Burbridge defeated Basil Duke's brigade at Keokuk, Iowa, on the 12th inst. The rebels lost their train and 150 men. Among the prisoners taken was a brother of late John Morgan.

Three boats of the federal expedition upon the Tennessee river, which were recently captured by the rebels, are reported as being a perfect network of infernal machines.

The president has disappeared that part of Gen. Sherman's army which was pursuing raiders into British territory and Gen. D. has, in consequence, revoked that portion of his instructions to commanders of the frontier.

A meeting in Jersey City on Friday night, one of the speakers stated that 50,000 of the "Brotherhood" were ready to march into Canada in case of hostilities between the United States and Great Britain.

The Brazilian demand for reparation in the matter of the Florida is said to be "zealous" in its tone, whatever that may mean. Secretary Seward, in his reply, does not indicate the extent of the demand, but he has made the matter fairly and satisfactorily adjusted.

The first under Admiral Porter, which was taken care of, was the "Merrimack," which was destroyed by the "Monitor" on Monday, numbered 64 vessels, carrying 597 guns.

An order is soon to be issued requiring the possession of passports by all persons entering the country, and the passport office is now in the process of preparing the necessary regulations.

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From Canada.

New York, Dec. 16.  
A private dispatch received in this city today from a gentleman in Montreal, says: "It is reported that the money belongs to the St. Albans banks is to be returned to-day, that there is a great excitement in rebel stock since Wednesday; and that even the Tories feel disgusted with the proceedings of the court presided over by Judge Chase."

Quebec, Dec. 16.  
Acadian cabinet meeting was held to-day. Parliament has been summoned on the 9th of January. Stipendiary magistrates have been appointed on the frontier, especially to take cognizance of breaches of the neutrality laws, and they are to be aided by a strong police force.

The Journal de Quebec of to-night, says: "The Dictator's proclamation is disapproved by the Washington Convention."

Boston, Dec. 16.  
Private dispatches from a reliable source at Montreal state that there is a perfect panic in Canada amongst railway managers, in anticipation of non-intercourse with the United States, which is expected unless the government takes prompt action to allay the excitement on the border.

At 5 o'clock P. M. to-day, nothing was known at Montreal of the Government raiders, nor were there further developments in regard to the restoration of the money stolen from the St. Albans banks.

Rebel Statement of Federal Repulses.  
The Savannah news of the 7th says: "We believe that a fight occurred yesterday at the front, in which the enemy were severely punished. The rebels lost a column of infantry and cavalry attacked the column of Col. Fisher, which is stationed on the outskirts, who had not more than a quarter of the number opposed to him, but he had severely repelled them."

"We learn that on Tuesday a force of the enemy advanced toward Comalco, for the purpose of crossing the river, they were attacked by Gen. Gothan's command and driven back."

"On Wednesday morning a portion of our forces had a sharp fight with a force of the enemy near the bridge, which was about four miles below Pontalaga. They advanced toward the railroad, and were driven back. One was killed and several wounded."

"The enemy landed a large force at McKay's point, and were repulsed. Advancing towards Old Pontalaga, they will be taken care of."

The force which landed at Boyd's landing has disappeared. The rebels fought on Tuesday was about a mile from the railroad, and is reported retreating. Our condition in that locality will be more satisfactory at the next account."

Be Not Deceived.—The public are particularly cautioned against being deceived by some persons who from ignorance, self-interest, or some other reason, represent that Speer's Sanguine wine is made with sugar.

It is a well known fact that the name wine is applied to a mixture of juice, sugar and water, and sometimes brandy, and various proportions, forming a cordial and not a wine.

The Sanguine grapes, however, need no such artificial adulteration, and the name as they contain all the purest and most valuable elements within themselves. The thousands of physicians in this country and Europe who are prescribing this wine, and the fact that it is in their own families in preference to all others, is sufficient evidence of its superiority over imported wines. The only genuine Sanguine wine has Mr. Speer's signature on the label, and is sold by all respectable dealers in wine and its valuable properties for medicinal use cannot be surpassed. Be not deceived.—Portland Press.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.  
ROOM OF COMMON COUNCIL,  
Joliet, Ill., Dec. 16, 1864.

Regular meeting.  
Present His Honor Mayor Porter and Ald. Scheidt, Ulrich, Clabby and Clabby.

Being no quorum present council adjourned to meet on Friday the 9th day of December, at 7 o'clock P. M.

Diarrhea and Dysentery.—We have examined a great number of letters from some of the most prominent physicians of Cincinnati and Cleveland, and speaking in the highest terms of Dr. J. C. Ayer's Sanguine wine, and recommending it as a specific for the cure of diarrhea and dysentery.

The latest case of the kind, which we have just cured, was a case of dysentery, which was cured by the use of Dr. J. C. Ayer's Sanguine wine, and the patient is now perfectly recovered.

Remonstrance of P. Hart and J. Bland against opening the alley running through the lot owned by J. C. Ayer, was received and referred to the committee on streets and bridges.

P. Carbery and A. Williams, police magistrates, submitted their reports, which on motion of Ald. Scheidt, were received and ordered placed on file.

On motion of Ald. Scheidt, the city clerk was ordered to draw an order on the City Treasurer for the sum of twenty-five dollars, being part payment for grading alley running through the lot owned by J. C. Ayer, and to be paid by the City Treasurer.

On motion of Ald. Scheidt, the sale of the property for grading Exchange street was postponed for thirty days from this date.

On motion of Ald. Clabby, the clerk was ordered to draw an order on the City Treasurer for the sum of twenty-five dollars, being part payment for grading alley running through the lot owned by J. C. Ayer, and to be paid by the City Treasurer.

On motion of Ald. Scheidt, the clerk was ordered to draw an order on the City Treasurer for the sum of twenty-five dollars, being part payment for grading alley running through the lot owned by J. C. Ayer, and to be paid by the City Treasurer.

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